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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC15-9-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-546); Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Comment request.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is submitting its information collection FERC-546 (Certificated Rate Filings) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review of the information collection requirements. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission previously issued a Notice in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 44094, 7/24/2015) requesting public comments. The Commission received no comments on the FERC-546 and is making this notation in its submittal to OMB.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed with OMB, identified by the OMB Control No. 1902-0155, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: oir_submission@omb.gov Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. The Desk Officer may also be reached via telephone at 202-395-0710

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket No. IC15-9-000, by either of the following methods:

- eFiling at Commission's Web Site: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.
- Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at DataClearance@FERC.gov, by telephone at (202) 502-8663, and by fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-546 (Certificated Rate Filings)

OMB Control No.: 1902-0155

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-546 information collection requirements with no changes to the reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission reviews the FERC-546 materials to decide whether to determine an initial rate associated with an application for a certificate under NGA

section 7(c). FERC reviews FERC-546 materials in 4(f) storage applications to evaluate market power and decide whether to grant, deny, or condition market based rate authority for the applicant. The Commission uses the FERC-546 information to monitor jurisdictional transportation, natural gas storage, and unbundled sales activities of interstate natural gas pipelines and Hinshaw¹ pipelines. In addition to fulfilling the Commission's obligations under the NGA, the FERC-546 enables the Commission to monitor the activities and evaluate transactions of the natural gas industry, and to ensure competitiveness, and improved efficiency of the industry's operations. In summary, the Commission uses the FERC-546 information to:

- ensure adequate customer protections under section 4(f) of the NGA;
- review rate and tariff changes by natural gas companies for the transportation of gas, natural gas storage services;
- provide general industry oversight; and
- supplement documentation during its audits process.

Failure to collect this information would prevent the Commission from being able to monitor and evaluate transactions and operations of interstate pipelines and perform its regulatory functions.

Type of Respondents: Pipeline companies and storage operators.

¹ Hinshaw pipelines are those that receive all out-of-state gas from entities within or at the boundary of a state if all the natural gas so received is ultimately consumed within the state in which it is received, 15 U.S.C. 717(c). Congress concluded that Hinshaw pipelines are "matters primarily of local concern," and so are more appropriately regulated by pertinent state agencies rather than by FERC. The Natural Gas Act section 1(c) exempts Hinshaw pipelines from FERC jurisdiction. A Hinshaw pipeline, however, may apply for a FERC certificate to transport gas outside of state lines.

*Estimate of Annual Burden*²: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

FERC-546 (Certificated Rate Filings)						
	Number of Respondents (1)	Annual Number of Responses per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden & Cost Per Response³ (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
Pipeline Companies	50	1	50	40; \$2,880	2,000; \$144,000	\$2,880
Storage Operators	1	1	1	350; \$25,200	350; \$25,200	\$25,200
TOTAL			51		2,350; \$169,200	

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: October 7, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

² The Commission defines burden as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

³ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * \$72.00 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The hourly cost figure comes from the 2015 FERC average salary and benefits (for one Full Time Equivalent) of \$149,489/year. FERC staff believes that industry's hourly cost (salary and benefits) for this collection are similar to FERC staff costs.

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